

Earldom of Hereford

Seat/County	Hereford Herefordshire	Principle source	An Historical Account of the City of Hereford by John Price published 1796
Date	History of Lordship		Monarchs
871	Creation of the English Monarchy		Alfred the Great 871-899 Edward Elder 899-924 Athelstan 924-939 Edmund I 939-946 Edred 946-955 Edwy 955-959 Edgar 959-975 Edward the Martyr 975-978 Ethelred 978-1016 Edmund II 1016 Canute 1016-1035 Harold I 1035-1040 Harthacnut 1040-1042 Edward the Confessor 1042-1066
1042	Earl Godwin severs Herefordshire with its Welsh dependencies from the Kingdom of Mercia. He immediately grants it to his eldest son Swein Godwinson (or Swane) who becomes the 1st Earl of Hereford . The Earldom includes Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Somerset.		
1047	Swein inveigles (persuades to do something by means of deception or flattery) Edgiva (Abbess of Leominster) from her nunnery and detains her by force with the intention of marrying her. The Archbishop of Canterbury and King Edward stop him, and King Edward banishes him. He travels to Flanders then onto Denmark and takes up piracy.		
1049	Swein returns to England to beg forgiveness supported by his cousin Beorn. There is a disagreement and Swein murders his cousin and is exiled again, being classed as “a man of no honour”.		
1050	Swein is pardoned despite his crimes and the Earldom restored to him.		
1051	Swein is exiled again together with his father and brothers and the Earldom is forfeit.		

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1052	King Edward grants the Earldom to Ralph de Maunt (also known as Ralph the Timid and nephew of King Edward) who becomes the 2nd Earl of Hereford . Ralph grants two feudal Baronies and the Barons build motte and bailey castles. These form the key defences against the Welsh. Later he is made an Admiral of 50 ships and sent to fight Harold the Dane who is attacking the English coast and English ships.	
1055	Alfgar and Griffin, Prince of Wales invade Herefordshire and Ralph meets the Welsh army at Hereford. Ralph gives orders for the English to fight on horseback (which is not how the English normally fight). Fearing the battle is lost Ralph together with the French and Normans in his army take to flight and Hereford and all the surrounding land falls to the Welsh.	
Unknown	Harold Godwinson (Ralph's brother and future King of England) with another force re-takes the county.	
1057	Ralph dies leaving a son and heir Harold who is just 5 years old. His wardship is held by Harold Godwinson. He does not reach majority before the Norman Conquest.	
1066	<p>Norman Conquest- Battle of Hastings</p> <p>William Fitz Osbern was regarded as the principal counsellor and adviser to William the Conqueror. He is regarded as a key figure and convinces the other Norman Barons that the invasion of England was viable. He also provides 60 ships towards the invasion force to England. As a reward he is granted the Isle of Wight.</p>	Harold II 1066 William I 1066-1087
1067	William is also granted the county of Hereford becoming the 3rd Earl of Hereford . He is also made Chief Administrator of Justice for the North of England. William and Bishop Odo of Bayeux are made regents of England whilst William the Conqueror visits Normandy.	
1070	William advises King William to have all the monasteries of England searched for hidden wealth and to have it seized. William builds the castles of Estbrighoyel, Clifford, Wigmore, Carisbrooke (Isle of Wight), Chepstow, Berkley, Monmouth and Ewyas.	

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1070/1	William is sent to Normandy to govern. William the Conqueror's brother-in-law the Count of Flanders dies and as his sons are still not of age Flanders is left in the hands of his widow, Richalde. She is challenged by the late count's brother and in order to get assistance she offers to marry William. He cannot resist getting hold of the rich principality near Normandy, so he rushes to Flanders with his army. He is slain in the Battle of Cassel. He leaves a son and heir Robert (or Roger) de Bretteuil (or Britolio) 4th Earl of Hereford.	
1075	Robert conspires with his brother in-law Ralph Guarder, Earl of Norfolk whilst William the Conqueror is absent in Normandy. They raise an army but are prevented from crossing the River Severn by the Bishop of Worcester and Abbot of Evesham and are defeated at Fagadune. When William the Conqueror returns to England Robert is tried for treason before the Great Council. He is sentenced to perpetual imprisonment and all his lands forfeit. The captured soldiers have their right foot amputated.	
1086	Domesday	
1087	Still imprisoned Robert dies leaving two sons Reynold and Roger. Neither of them inherits the Earldom.	William II 1087-1100
Post 1100	Reynold and Roger are accomplished soldiers fighting for King Henry but are unsuccessful retrieving the Earldom.	Henry I 1100-35
Post 1135	King Stephen finding the Earldom vacant grants it to Robert de Beaumont , Earl of Leicester (grandson of Roger above) and his heirs making him the 5th Earl of Hereford . Robert is to use the city and castle of Hereford as another stronghold in the Midlands.	Stephen 1135-54
1141	Empress Maud who contends the English crown grants the feudal Earldom of Hereford to Milo (or Miles) Fitz Walter , hereditary High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, Castellan of Gloucester Castle and a Constable of England for his faithful service. He becomes the 6th Earl of Hereford .	
1142	Empress Maud grants Milo Abergavenny Castle. Milo boasts that Empress Maud lives at his expense while she is in England. There is also a charter from King Stephen making a grant of the Earldom to Milo. He rebuilds the bailey and ditch defences of Gloucester Castle.	

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1143	Milo is desperately short of money to pay his troops so demands large sums of money from the church. The Bishop of Hereford resists his demands and after Milo invades church lands he is excommunicated by the Bishop. Milo dies in a hunting accident at Christmas leaving a son and heir Roger Fitz Milo the 7th Earl of Hereford . He also inherits the offices of High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, Castellan of Gloucester Castle and Constable of England. Roger is already considerably wealthy through his wife Cecily (daughter and heiress of Payn Fitz John). Roger is troubled by his father's death whilst being excommunicated and keeps pressing the Bishop. He is given three warnings and is then excommunicated himself.	
1151	Roger is a devout individual and founds the Abbey of Flaxley, Gloucester and funds several other monasteries.	
1155	Roger is in a dispute with King Henry over the castle at Gloucester. He surrenders the castle and his earldom of Hereford. King Henry re-grants the Earldom to Roger. Roger takes the habit and becomes a monk at Gloucester Abbey. Roger dies without issue (childless) leaving a brother and heir Walter. Walter also inherits the offices of High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, Castellan of Gloucester Castle and Constable of England. Before Walter could take up his inheritance, he participates in a rebellion against King Henry so the King takes from his inheritance the city of Gloucester and the Earldom of Hereford. Walter dies without issue (childless) leaving his brother Henry as his heir.	Henry II 1154-89
1159/63	Henry is killed in a border issue. He dies without issue leaving his brother Mahel as his heir. Mahel is killed, in an accident at Walter Clifford's castle at Bronllys, shortly after and the family's estates pass to their three sisters; Margery, Bertha and Lucy. The eldest is Margery, wife of Humphrey de Bohun . King Henry grants the Earldom to Humphrey who becomes the 8th Earl of Hereford . He also inherits the hereditary office of Constable of England and 2/3 of the family's estates. Humphrey is also Lord High Steward (a role above Lord Chancellor).	
1165	Humphrey dies leaving a son and heir also Humphrey who becomes the 9th Earl of Hereford .	
Prior to 1172	Humphrey successfully claims the office of Constable of England from the Gloucester family.	

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1171/5	Humphrey marries Margaret of Huntingdon (widow of Conan IV, Duke of Brittany and granddaughter of King David I of Scotland).	
1181/7	Humphrey accompanies King Henry leading an army against the Count of Flanders in support of King Philip II of France. He dies whilst away from England leaving a son and heir Henry.	
1200	King John confers a hereditary peerage of Earl of Hereford upon Henry at Porchester however, he retains the feudal Earldom and its revenue, granting Henry an annuity of £20 from the third penny charged by the feudal Earl. All future Earls of Hereford are peers and not feudal Earls.	Richard I 1189-99 John 1199-1216
1215	Magna Carta	
1215-1217	First Barons War	Henry III 1216-72
1264-1267	Second Barons War	Edward I 1272-1307 Edward II 1307-27 Edward III 1327-77 Richard II 1377-1399 Henry IV 1399-1413 Henry V 1413-22
1455-1487	War of the Roses	Henry VI 1422-61 1470-71 Edward IV 1461-70 1471-83 Edward V 1483 Richard III 1483-5 Henry VII 1485-1509 Henry VIII 1509-47 Edward VI 1547-53 Mary I 1553-58 Elizabeth I 1558-1603 James I 1603-25 Charles I 1625-49 Charles II 1660-85 James II 1685-88 William III 1688-1702
1534	The Act of Supremacy – Church of England	Anne 1702-14 George I 1714/27 George II 1727/60 George III 1760-1820 George IV 1820-30 William IV 1830-7
1642-1651	English Civil War	
1750-1850	Industrial Revolution	

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2020	The title appears not to have been used for 820 years.	Victoria 1837-1901 Edward VII 1901-10 George V 1910-36 Edward VIII 1936 George VI 1936-52 Elizabeth II 1952-